



Principal Linc - Feb. 6, 2009

****The Early Release Day of Jan. 28 has been rescheduled to Feb. 25.**

Test of School Messenger

Sometime in the next few weeks, the school system will be testing out a new contact program called School Messenger. This communication system is being looked at for its potential to inform families in the case of weather related announcements, emergencies, etc. This program allows for many levels of customization but the first test call will most likely be to every family's home telephone number and parent cell phone number listed on your emergency information. More information will be forthcoming.

Winchester Public School Website

Did you know you can find information on everything from kindergarten registration to curriculum frameworks on the website for our schools system by going to www.winchester.k12.ma.us/ ? For those of you who have children with allergies, a copy of the recently approved Life Threatening Allergies Policy is available under School Committee policies.

Sports Writing Contest

Each year the Sports Museum of Boston sponsors a writing contest for students in grades 4-12. Contestants are asked to write a story relating qualities such as determination and courage to sports. Attached to this newsletter are guidelines, a registration form and contact information. Thank you to the Sullivan/Krotky family for sharing this information. The deadline for submitting the writing is March 6.

Study Island

We have begun a three week pilot of an educational web-based program called Study Island. The third and fourth graders are registering and exploring the curriculum activities while the staff is gauging its effectiveness as a learning tool. Because it is web-based, these students can access the program from home with their passwords. At the end of the trial, we will consider purchasing the program if its benefits warrant the time away from other educational activities.

Other Important Notes

*Around Feb. 26 , look for a conference slip indicating your appointment for the parent teacher conferences held March 11, 12 and 13.

*New Summer Programs--Look for information coming your way soon about great opportunities for your child through the Winchester school system.

* Spread the word--- Kindergarten registrations are (were) due January 27.

*Our school secretary, Joyce Hart, broke her elbow falling on the ice. Ouch! She will be back to work after vacation.

*Please do not stop in traffic at dismissal time to pick up a child. It creates a dangerous situation and backs up traffic. Thank you